

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08  
FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02  
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01  
PA-02 H-02 ABF-01 HA-05 /129 W  
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R 241755Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9722  
INFO TREASURY WASHDC

UNCLAS MEXICO 06694

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: IDB MX  
SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF IDB ANNUAL MEETING

1. THE MEXICAN PRESS GAVE CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WERE COMMENTS ON THE ABSENCE OF SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL, HUMAN RIGHTS AND DELAYS IN USG APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE IDB.

2. A NUMBER OF MEXICO CITY'S DAILY NEWSPAPERS SENT SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS TO VANCOUVER TO COVER THE IDB ANNUAL MEETING WHICH THEY LABEL THE MOST IMPORTANT FINANCIAL GATHERING OF THE AMERICAS. AS A RESULT OF THE PRESENCE OF A REPORTED 25 MEXICAN JOURNALISTS THE MEETINGS GOT WIDE COVERAGE IN THE LOCAL PRESS.

3. THERE WAS A VARIETY OF COMMENT ON THE ABSENCE OF SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL. ONE PAPER (LA PRENSA) CITED DELEGATES AS SAYING THIS INDICATED A "SERIOUS DISDAIN" OF THE IDB AND A MEANS TO FORCE THE IDB TO ADOPT U.S. POLICIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS. SEVERAL OTHER PAPERS NOTED IRRITATION ON THE PART OF DELEGATES AT THE ABSENCE OF SECRETARY  
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BLUMENTHAL, BUT THEY DID NOT ASSOCIATE THIS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS. THE THEME THAT THE USG WAS HOLDING BACK ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE IDB BECAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS WAS PICKED UP BY SOME OTHER PAPERS.

4. THE MEXICAN PRESS PLAYED UP THE REMARKS OF TREASURY SECRETARY IBARRA IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE EFFECT THAT POLITI-

CAL FACTORS SUCH AS HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD NOT PLAY A ROLE IN INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE IDB, BUT RATHER SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN POLITICAL FORA SUCH AS THE OAS OR THE UN. ORTIZ MENA WAS ALSO QUOTED AS OPPOSING THE INJECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES INTO THE IDB.

5. MOST NEWSPAPERS NOTED ON ONE OR MORE OCCASIONS THE DELAYS IN OBTAINING U.S. CONGRESS ACTION ON IDB CONTRIBUTIONS. WHILE THIS WAS CARRIED FAIRLY STRAIGHT BY SOME PAPERS, OTHERS WERE MORE CRITICAL. ONE, UNOMASUNO, HEADLINED THAT ORTIZ MENA DENOUNCED THE DELAY THOUGH LATER IN THE STORY IT QUOTED THE IDB PRESIDENT AS SAYING THAT TECHNICALLY THE U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS WERE NOT OVERDUE.

6. DEPUTY SECRETARY CARSWELL'S SPEECH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN REPORTED FACTUALLY, THOUGH UNDER HEADLINES SUCH AS "ANGRY RESPONSE FROM U.S. TO LATIN CALLS", "U.S. WILL ELIMINATE ALL TRADE OBSTACLES, BUT WILL ONLY HELP COUNTRIES RESPECTING RIGHTS", AND "TOUGH CONDITIONS FOR LOANS TO LATIN AMERICA, U.S. ANNOUNCES". THOMPSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, MEETINGS, DEVELOPMENT BANKS  
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